

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1437

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: ILO,ELAB, UN, IS, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: ISRAELI EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS ON ILO

1. ISRAELI EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH HAUSMANN, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM ILO CHEMICAL INDUSTRY MEETING IN GENEVA, TOLD LABATT THAT HE REMAINED PESSIMISTIC RE CHANCES THAT ILO UNDER U.S. PRESSURE WOULD ADOPT NEC- ESSARY REFORM MEASURES TO FORESTALL U.S. WITHDRAWAL.

2. ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION HE HAD EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR CRITICISM OF ILO CONTAINED IN U.S. STATEMENT OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW AND OF SEPARATE STATEMENT OF DISSATISFACTION WITH ILO BY U.S. EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES SMITH.

3. ILO LEGAL COUNSEL HAD REPORTEDLY CONFIDED TO HIM HIS FEAR FOR FUTURE OF ILO SHOULD U.S. WITHDRAW; HAD REQUESTED THAT ISRAEL USE ITS INFLUENCE TO DISSUADE U.S. FROM WITHDRAWING;BUT DID NOT SEE MUCH CHANCE THAT DISAFFILIATION COULD BE AVOIDED.

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4. THIS PESSIMISM IS REPORTEDLY ALSO SHARED BY ILO

DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD AND OTHER SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS. HOWEVER, THE CHANCES THAT THE WESTERN MEMBERS WOULD SOLIDLY RALLY BEHIND U.S. TO FORCE ACCEPTANCE OF REFORMS ON THIRD WORLD AND COMMUNIST MEMBERS APPEAR SLIGHT. ALLEGEDLY THE BRITISH ARE PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY OVER U.S. PRESSURE ON WESTERN ILO MEMBERS TO SUPPORT AMERICAN POSITION.

5. ACCORDING TO HAUSMANN, CURRENT EFFORTS TO CHANGE ILO RULES TO CURB FUTURE INTRODUCTIONS OF POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS NOT GERMANE TO ILO COMPETENCE OR DESIGNED TO CONDEMN, ISOLATE OR EXCLUDE MEMBER COUNTRIES APPEAR TO BE FAILING.

6. MOREOVER, THE "GROUP OF 77" AT ITS RECENT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN MANILA HAD REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO DEMAND: A) ENLARGEMENT OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY AND NUMBER OF ITS PERMANENT MEMBERS TO GIVE STRONGER REPRESENTATION TO THIRD WORLD AND COMMUNIST WITHIN ILO; AND B) ELECTION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL BY CONFERENCE VOTE RATHER THAN BY GOVERNING BODY.

7. HISTADRUT AS WELL AS EMPLOYER AND LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE RECENTLY INDICATED TO EMBASSY THEIR HOPE THAT INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MAY IN MONTREAL COULD BECOME A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE BASE TO ILO FOR WESTERN DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES WISHING TO COOPERATE ON TRI-PARTITE GOVERNMENT-LABOR-MANAGEMENT BASIS IN FIELD OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. LABOR MINISTER BARAM IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING ATTENDING MONTREAL CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENTLY MAY WISH TO CONSULT ON FUTURE OF ILO AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON. TOON

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